

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2. (Currently amended): Use A method according to ~~claim 1~~, claim 17 wherein said autoimmune disease ~~being~~ is generated by a failure in the production of IL-4 by Th2 cells.

Claim 3. (Currently amended): Use A method according to ~~claim 1 or claim 2~~, 17 wherein said autoimmune disease ~~being~~ is generated by a failure in the production of IL-4 connected with a quantitative and functional deficiency of a T cell with sub-type HSA⁻, CD4⁻CD8⁻ or CD4⁺CD8⁻, CD44⁺, TCR- $\alpha\beta$ ⁺, V β 8⁺, NK1.1⁺.

Claim 4. (Currently amended): Use A method according to ~~claim 1, 2 or 3~~, 17 wherein said autoimmune disease ~~being~~ is insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, autoimmune encephalo-myelitis, autoimmune rheumatoid arthritis, polyarthritis, autoimmune type 2 hepatitis, autoimmune gastritis, autoimmune sclerosis, sialadenitis, adrenalitis, oophoritis, glomerulonephritis or autoimmune thyroiditis or autoimmune type pathogenic mechanisms in a therapy associated with treating AIDS.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Currently amended): Use A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, claim 17 wherein said T lymphocytes ~~being~~ are autological or syngeneic cells ~~from cells of patients for whom the pharmaceutical composition comprising them is intended of said patient.~~

Claim 7. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition for treating autoimmune diseases comprising as the active principle, autologous or syngeneic T lymphocytes from cells of the patient for whom the pharmaceutical composition is intended, said T lymphocytes having previously been incubated in the presence of IL-7.

Claim 8. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7, for treating an autoimmune disease generated by a failure in the production of IL-4 by Th2 cells.

Claim 9. (Currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 ~~or claim 8~~, for treating an autoimmune disease generated by a failure in the production of IL-4 connected with a quantitative and functional deficiency of cells of the sub-type HSA⁻, CD4⁻CD8⁻ or CD4⁺CD8⁻, CD44⁺, TCR- $\alpha\beta$ ⁺, V β 8⁺, NK1.1⁺.

Claim 10. (Currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 7, 8 or 9~~, claim 7 for treating insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus.

Claim 11. (Currently amended): A process for producing a pharmaceutical composition for treating autoimmune diseases, comprising mixing autologous or syngeneic T lymphocytes from cells of the patient for whom the composition is intended, said T lymphocytes having previously been incubated in the presence of IL-7 with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or diluent, ~~optionally combined with other active principles~~.

Claim 12. (Currently amended): A process for producing a pharmaceutical composition for treating an autoimmune disease according to claim 11, wherein said autoimmune disease ~~being~~ is generated by a failure in the production of IL-4 by Th2 cells.

Claim 13. (Currently amended): A process for producing a pharmaceutical composition for treating an autoimmune disease according to claim 11 ~~or claim 12~~, wherein said autoimmune disease ~~being~~ is generated by a failure in IL-4 production connected with a quantitative and functional deficiency of T cells with sub-type HSA⁻, CD4⁻CD8⁻ or CD4⁺CD8⁻, CD44⁺, TCR- $\alpha\beta$ ⁺, V β 8⁺, NK1.1⁺.

Claim 14. (Currently amended): A process for producing a pharmaceutical composition for treating an autoimmune disease according to claim ~~11, 12 or 13~~, 11 wherein said autoimmune disease being insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus.

Claim 15. (Currently amended): A ~~therapeutic treatment method in which~~ according to claim 17 wherein a therapeutically effective dose of interleukin-7 ~~or T lymphocytes which have previously been incubated in the presence of IL-7~~ is administered ~~to a~~ to the patient ~~with an autoimmune disease.~~

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (New) A method of treating a patient with an autoimmune disease comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective dose of interleukin-7 or T lymphocytes which have been incubated in the presence of IL-7.

Claim 18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the patient is treated with a therapeutically effective dose of T lymphocytes which have been incubated in the presence of IL-7.

Claim 19. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the patient has insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus.